

What is claimed is;

1. An image-capturing device, comprising:

an image sensor that captures a subject image and
generates image data;

5 a buffer memory that temporarily stores the image data;

a connection unit that electrically and detachably
connects a portable memory to a main body;

a wireless communication circuit capable of wirelessly
communicating with an external device; and

10 an image storage control unit that stores the image data
temporarily stored at said buffer memory into the portable
memory connected at said connection unit and transfers the
image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the
external device via said wireless communication circuit if
15 the portable memory is substantially unusable.

2. An image-capturing device according to claim 1,
wherein:

the portable memory is a memory card; and

20 said connection unit is a memory card slot at which a
memory card is detachably loaded.

3. An image-capturing device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

25 a connection detection unit that detects whether or not

the portable memory is connected at said connection unit
wherein:

said image storage control unit transfers the image data
temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external
5 device via said wireless communication circuit if said
connection detection circuit detects that the portable memory
is not connected at said connection unit.

4. An image-capturing device according to claim 1,
10 wherein:

said image storage control unit detects whether or not
a storage capacity of the portable memory connected at said
connection unit is insufficient and transfers the image data
temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external
15 device via said wireless communication circuit if the storage
capacity of the portable memory connected at said connection
unit is detected to be insufficient.

5. An image-capturing device according to claim 1, further
20 comprising:

a nonvolatile internal memory, wherein:

said image storage control unit stores in said internal
memory image identification information used to identify the
image data and transmission recipient information used to
25 identify the external device to which the image data are to

be transmitted, when transferring the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external device via said wireless communication circuit.

5 6. An image-capturing device according to claim 5,
wherein:

said image storage control unit transfers the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external device via said wireless communication circuit to store the
10 image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory into the external device if the portable memory is substantially unusable; and

when a substantially usable portable memory is detected to be connected at said connection unit after the image data are transferred, said image storage control unit receives the
15 transferred image data via said wireless communication circuit from the external device to which the image data have been transmitted based upon said image identification information and said transmission recipient information
20 stored in said internal memory and stores the image data thus received into the portable memory.

7. An image-capturing device according to claim 5,
wherein:

25 said image storage control unit stores thumbnail image

data of the image data transferred to the external device into said internal memory.

8. An image-capturing device, comprising:

5 an image sensor that captures a subject image and generates image data;

a buffer memory that temporarily stores the image data;

a connection unit that electrically and detachably connects a portable memory to a main body;

10 a wireless communication circuit capable of communicating with an external device through a wireless line; and

an image storage control unit that transfers the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external device via said wireless communication circuit to store the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external device and stores the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory into the portable memory connected at said connection unit if the external device is substantially unusable.

15

20

9. An image-capturing device according to claim 8, wherein:

the portable memory is a memory card; and

25 said connection unit is a memory card slot at which a

memory card is detachably loaded.

10. An image-capturing device according to claim 8,
wherein:

5 said image storage control unit detects whether or not
wireless communication with the external device is enabled
and stores the image data temporarily stored at said buffer
memory into the portable memory connected at said connection
unit if wireless communication with the external device is
10 detected to be disabled.

11. An image-capturing device according to claim 8,
wherein:

 said image storage control unit detects whether or not
15 a storage capacity of the external device is sufficient and
stores the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory
into the portable memory connected at said connection unit
if the storage capacity of the external device is detected
to be insufficient.

20

12. An image-capturing device, comprising:

 an image sensor that captures a subject image and
generates image data;

 a connection unit that electrically and detachably
25 connects a portable memory to a main body;

a wireless communication circuit capable of communicating with an external device through a wireless line; and

an image storage control unit that stores the image data
5 into the portable memory if the portable memory is connected at said connection unit and transfers the image data to the external device via said wireless communication circuit if the portable memory is not connected at said connection unit.

10 13. An image-capturing device, comprising:

an image sensor that captures a subject image and generates image data;

a connection unit that electrically and detachably connects either a portable memory or a wireless communication
15 circuit capable of wirelessly communicating with an external device to a main body; and

an image storage control unit that stores the image data into the portable memory if the portable memory is connected at said connection unit and transfers the image data to the
20 external device via the wireless communication circuit if the wireless communication circuit is connected at said connection unit.

14. An electronic camera, comprising:

25 an image sensor that captures a subject image and

generates image data;

a buffer memory that temporarily stores the image data;

a connection unit that electrically and detachably
connects a portable memory to a main body;

5 a wireless communication circuit capable of wirelessly
communicating with an external device; and

an image storage control unit that stores the image data
temporarily stored at said buffer memory into the portable
memory connected at said connection unit and transfers the
10 image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the
external device via said wireless communication circuit if
the portable memory is substantially unusable.

15. An electronic camera, comprising:

15 an image sensor that captures a subject image and
generates image data;

a buffer memory that temporarily stores the image data;

a connection unit that electrically and detachably
connects a portable memory to a main body;

20 a wireless communication circuit capable of
communicating with an external device through a wireless
line; and

an image storage control unit that transfers the image
data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external
25 device via said wireless communication circuit to store the

image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory to the external device and stores the image data temporarily stored at said buffer memory into the portable memory connected at said connection unit if said the external device is

5 substantially unusable.